

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim ~~1~~ 29, wherein the image information receiving section ~~is comprises~~ an image reading section to read an image on a document.

3. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim ~~1~~ 29, wherein the judging section and the control section are ~~constructed by~~ included in a ~~common same~~ controlling ~~means~~ section.

4. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim ~~1~~ 29, wherein the ~~plurality~~ selected sets of JOB data are ~~combined based on the premise that~~ judged by the judging section to be combinable if the setting data of each of the ~~plurality~~ selected sets of JOB data contains ~~consistent~~ coincident data having a content consistent with ~~that of a content of coincident~~ data of the setting data of the other selected sets of JOB data, and wherein when one of the selected sets of JOB data ~~of the plurality of JOB data~~ does not contain ~~the consistent~~ coincident

10 data, the judging section judges ~~the~~ propriety of the one of the  
selected sets of JOB data ~~having not the consistent data.~~

5 5. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of  
claim ~~±~~ 29, ~~wherein the plurality of JOB data are combined based~~  
~~on the premise that the setting data of each of the plurality of~~  
~~JOB data contains consistent data having a content consistent~~  
with that of other JOB data, and wherein when a first set of JOB  
data has been selected by the selecting section, ~~and when a~~  
second set of JOB data is ~~currently selected,~~ judged by the  
judging section ~~judges the second JOB data~~ as being ~~selectable~~  
combinable with the first set of JOB data only ~~when if the~~  
10 setting data of the second set of JOB data contains ~~consistent~~  
coincident data having a content that is consistent with ~~that a~~  
content of coincident data of the setting data of the first JOB  
data.

5 6. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of  
claim ~~±~~ 29, ~~wherein the plurality of JOB data are combined based~~  
~~on the premise that the setting data of each of the plurality of~~  
~~JOB data contains consistent data having a content consistent~~  
with that of other JOB data, and wherein when a first set of JOB  
data has been selected by the selecting section, ~~and when a~~  
second set of JOB data is ~~currently selected,~~ judged by the

judging section ~~judges the second JOB data~~ as being ~~selectable~~ as  
combinable with the first set of JOB data only ~~when if~~ the second  
10 JOB data does not contain first predetermined ~~consistent~~  
coincident data and ~~contains~~ does contain second ~~consistent~~  
coincident data having a content consistent with ~~that~~ a content  
of second ~~consistent~~ coincident data of the first selected set of  
JOB data.

7. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of  
claim 4, wherein the ~~consistent~~ coincident data ~~is~~ comprises at  
least one of specific application function setting information,  
image size information, image resolution information and  
compression ratio information.

8. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of  
claim 7, wherein the first ~~consistent~~ coincident data ~~is~~  
comprises specific application function setting information and  
the second ~~consistent~~ coincident data ~~is~~ comprises at least one  
5 of image size information, image resolution information and  
compression ratio information.

9. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of  
claim ~~1~~ 29, wherein the setting data ~~includes consistent~~  
comprises:

coincident data ~~supposed to be~~ such that the coincident data  
5 of each of the plurality of selected sets of JOB data is  
consistent with that of other JOB data when if the selected sets  
of JOB data is combined with the other JOB data, are judged to be  
combinable; and

utility activity data indicating processing to be performed  
10 for the image data. based on which the JOB data is executed when  
an image is formed by the image forming section based on the  
combined JOB data.

10. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of  
claim 9, wherein the ~~consistent~~ coincident data is comprises at  
least one of specific application function setting information,  
image size information, image resolution information and  
5 compression ratio information, and the ~~utility activity data is~~  
comprises at least one of ~~one side/both side record designating~~  
single sided/double sided recording designation information, feed  
tray ~~selecting~~ selection information and application function  
setting information, said application function setting  
10 information excluding except the specific application function  
setting information ~~contained in the consistent data.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim ~~±~~ 29, wherein the setting data ~~includes consistent~~ comprises:  
coincident data supposed to be such that the coincident data of each of the plurality of selected sets of JOB data is consistent with that of other JOB data when if the selected sets of JOB data is combined with the other JOB data, are judged to be combinable;

utility activity data indicating processing to be performed for the image data; based on which the JOB data is executed when an image is formed by the image forming section based on the combined JOB data, and

changeable data having a changeable content indicating processing to be performed for the image data based on which the JOB data is executed when an image is formed by the image forming section based on the combined JOB data.

12. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim 11, wherein the ~~consistent coincident data is~~ comprises at least one of specific application function setting information, image size information, image resolution information and compression ratio information, ~~and the utility activity data is~~ comprises at least one of ~~one side/both side record designating~~ single sided/double sided recording designation information, feed tray ~~selecting~~ selection information and application function

setting information, said application function setting  
10 information excluding ~~except~~ the specific application function  
setting information ~~contained in the consistent data~~, and the  
changeable data ~~is~~ comprises at least one of ~~record set~~ recording  
number setting information of the combined JOB data, ~~record~~  
recording material discharge mode setting information, and  
15 partial information of the application function setting  
information in the ~~utility~~ activity data.

13. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of  
claim ~~+~~ 29, wherein the setting data ~~contains~~ further comprises  
storing information ~~indicating the specific~~ for specifying the  
sets of JOB data to be stored in the second storing section.

14. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of  
claim ~~+~~ 29, further comprising a designating section to designate  
image information among the image information received by the  
image information receiving section as the ~~specific~~ sets of JOB  
data to be stored in the second storing section.

15. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus,  
comprising:

an image information receiving section to receive image  
information including image data and setting data indicating a

5 control condition at ~~the~~ a time of ~~an~~ image formation, said  
setting data comprising activity data indicating processing to be  
performed for the image data;

a first storing section to store temporarily the image  
information received by the image information receiving section  
10 as one ~~of a plurality~~ set of JOB data;

an image forming section to form an image based on the image  
information stored in the first storing section;

a second storing section to store a plurality of pieces of  
said image information ~~corresponding to specific JOB data among~~  
15 ~~the image information~~ received by the image information receiving  
section as a plurality of sets of JOB data;

a selecting section to select a plurality of the sets of JOB  
data to be combined from the plurality of ~~preserved~~ sets of JOB  
data stored in the second storing section;

20 a control section to combine ~~a~~ the selected plurality of  
sets of JOB data ~~selected by the selecting section~~ into a single  
set of combined JOB data, to store the combined JOB data in the  
first storing section, and to control the image forming section  
~~so as~~ to conduct an image formation of the set of combined JOB  
25 data ~~base~~ based on the respective setting data of ~~optional~~ each  
of the selected sets of JOB data, ~~selected from the plurality of~~  
~~JOB data~~ such that the image forming section respectively

performs the image processing indicated by the respective activity data for each of the selected sets of JOB data.

Claim 16 (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim 15, wherein the image formation is executed for the combined JOB data based on a control condition corresponding to the ~~content of the setting~~ respective activity data of each of the selected sets of JOB data ~~which has be selected firstly among the plurality of JOB data selected by the selecting section.~~

18. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim 15, wherein the setting data ~~contains~~ further comprises storing information ~~indicating the specific~~ for specifying the sets of JOB data to be stored in the second storing section.

Claims 19-22 (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim ~~1~~ 29, wherein the control section controls the image forming section so as to execute ~~an~~ the image formation for the set of combined JOB data in accordance with a sequentially-



- 5      selected order of each of the plurality of selected sets of JOB data ~~selected by the selecting section.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim ~~±~~ 29, further comprising an indicating section ~~by which a content for indicating contents~~ of the setting data of each set of JOB data stored in the second storing section, such that the contents of the setting data are confirmable ~~can be confirmed.~~

25. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim 24, wherein when the judging section judges the selected sets of JOB data as being ~~improper~~ not combinable, the indicating section indicates ~~the ground~~ a basis of the judgment.

26. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim ~~±~~ 29, further comprising ~~a~~ warning means for issuing a warning when the judging section judges the selected sets of JOB data as being ~~improper~~ not combinable.

27. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim ~~±~~ 29, further comprising an elimination designating means for designating JOB data to be eliminated from among the plurality of sets of JOB data stored in the second storing section.

28. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus of claim ~~1~~ 29, wherein the control section is ~~capable of coping with any one of~~ operable in an image combining mode ~~to form for forming~~ an image by combining ~~each the~~ image data of the selected sets of JOB data based on only the ~~each~~ image data of the plurality selected sets of JOB data, ~~selected by the selecting section and a JOB data combining mode to form for forming an image by combining each the selected sets of~~ JOB data based on ~~each the~~ setting data and ~~each the~~ image data of ~~the plurality~~ each of the selected sets of JOB data ~~selected by the selecting section.~~

29. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a judging section to judge propriety of the selected sets of JOB data based on the setting data of the selected sets of JOB data;

wherein the selected sets of JOB data are combined by the control section only if the selected sets of JOB data are judged to be combinable by the judging section.

30. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a control condition designating means for designating a control condition for the set of combined JOB data;

5 wherein the control section controls the image forming  
section so as to conduct the image formation for the combined JOB  
data based on the control condition designated by the control  
condition designating means.

31. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 15, wherein  
the image processing indicated by the activity data comprises at  
least one of single sided/double sided recording designation  
information and sheet feed tray selection information.

32. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 15, wherein  
the image processing indicated by the activity data comprises at  
least one of automatic erasing outside a document, monochromatic  
reversing, frame/fold erasing, document position correction,  
entire surface image, binding margin, and stamp/overlay.